

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

1. (Currently amended) Device for applying a working power to a workpiece, comprising
a working cylinder,
a working piston,
an actuation chamber which ~~can be~~ is supplied with a hydraulic
medium during an operation of applying the working power and which is situated on
one side of the piston,
a return chamber which ~~can be~~ is supplied with a gaseous medium during an
operation of returning the piston and which is situated on the opposing side of the
piston,
[[and]]
a force transmission device cooperating with the working piston, and
a discharge device designed such that the gaseous medium is displaced suddenly
from the return chamber during the operation of applying the working power.
2. (Currently amended) The device according to claim 1, wherein
an accumulator communicates with the actuation chamber,
wherein the hydraulic medium ~~may be~~ is stored in the accumulator
under pressure.
3. (Currently amended) The device according to claim 2, wherein
arranged between the accumulator and the actuation chamber is
a control valve, wherein the hydraulic medium stored in the
accumulator under pressure ~~may be~~ is fed suddenly via the control
valve into the actuation chamber.
4. (Currently amended) ~~Device~~ The device according to claim 1,
wherein the workpiece is a connecting rod and the force transmission device

is designed such that the workpiece ~~can be~~ is crack split.

5. (Previously presented) The device according to claim 4, wherein the force transmission device has a locally fixed spreading jaw, a movable spreading jaw and a spreading device in the form of a spreading wedge for pushing apart the spreading jaws.
6. (Canceled)
7. (New) A method for applying power to a workpiece in a device including a working cylinder, a working piston, an actuation chamber situated on one side of the piston and a return chamber situated on an opposing side of the piston, comprising:
 - supplying the actuation chamber with a hydraulic medium during an operation of applying the working power;
 - supplying the return chamber with a gaseous medium during an operation of returning the piston; and
 - displacing the gaseous medium from the return chamber suddenly during the operation of applying the working power.